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6/24/04
J.H.

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows:

✓ Claims 1-73. (canceled)

Claim 74. (previously presented) A system that integrates a remote auction audience with an onsite auction audience within a traditional-style, live auction while leaving an auctioneer in control of the auction event, the system comprising:

a clerk system operable to process auction bids from one or more onsite auction bidders and remote auction bidders for an item being auctioned at a live auction site;

a bid system operable to:

transmit to one or more remote auction bidders information pertaining to the item being auctioned,

receive auction bids from the one or more remote auction bidders for the item being auctioned; and

transmit to the one or more remote auction bidders information regarding the acceptance and rejection of the onsite and remote auction bids; and

the clerk system and the bid system being event-driven systems operating subject to the occurrence of non-time based events, the non-time based events occurring under the direction of the auctioneer, whereby the auctioneer manages the psychology and the pace of the auction.

✓ Claims 75-77 (canceled)

Claim 78. (new) A method for integrating a remote auction audience with an onsite auction audience at within a traditional-style, live auction while leaving an auctioneer in control of the auction event, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting to one or more remote auction bidders information about an item being auctioned at the live auction site;

receiving one or more auction bids from the one or more remote auction bidders for the item being auctioned;

processing auction bids from one or more onsite auction bidders and remote auction bidders for the item being auctioned;

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AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-73. (canceled)

Claim 74. (currently amended) A system that integrates a remote auction audience with an onsite auction audience within a traditional-style, live auction while leaving an auctioneer in control of the auction event, the system comprising:

a clerk system operable to process auction bids from one or more onsite auction bidders and remote auction bidders for an item being auctioned at a live auction site;

a bid system operable to:

transmit to one or more remote auction bidders information pertaining to the item being auctioned,

receive auction bids from the one or more remote auction bidders

for the item being auctioned; and

transmit to the one or more remote auction bidders information regarding the acceptance and rejection of the onsite and remote auction bids; and

the clerk system and the bid system being event-only-driven systems operating subject to the occurrence of non-time based events, the non-time based events occurring under the direction of the auctioneer, whereby the auctioneer manages the psychology and the pace of the auction.

~~Claims 75-77. (canceled)~~

Claim 78. (currently amended) A method for integrating a remote auction audience with an onsite auction audience within a traditional-style, live auction while leaving an auctioneer in control of the auction event, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting to one or more remote auction bidders information about an item being auctioned at the live auction site;

receiving one or more auction bids from the one or more remote auction bidders for the item being auctioned;

processing auction bids from one or more onsite auction bidders and remote auction bidders for the item being auctioned;